

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 02940 211113Z

14

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 PC-15

USIA-15 IO-13 DODE-00 AGR-20 EB-11 DRC-01 RSC-01 /173 W

----- 025252

P R 201505Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6392

INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/AX

SUBJ: VISIT BY GON AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES

DIALLO NBDOLAYE TO ADO/NIAMEY OFFICE

REF: A) STATE 184011 B) NIAMEY 2909

1. ON SEP 19 AMB DIALLO CAME TO EMBASSY TO CALL ON ADO. HE WAS RECEIVED BY ADO OFFICERS BRAUNSTEIN AND MAU. THE DISCUSSION WAS A GOOD OPEN GIVE-AND-TAKE ON A NUMBER OF MATTERS:

A. AMB DIALLO JUST RETURNED TO NIGER FROM PIC PRESIDENTS' MEETING IN OUAGADOUGOU. HE EXPRESSED QUOTE PERSONAL OPINION UNQUOTE THAT CONFERENCE AFTER SETTING 600 BILLION CFA NEED HAD TAKEN A WRONG TURN BY AGREEING TO REDUCE STATED NEEDS TO 200 BILLION TO CONFORM WITH DONOR REQUEST. HIS VIEW WAS THAT 600 BILLION LEVEL SHOULD HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED AS REPRESENTING REALITY OF SITUATION AND SHOULD HAVE LISTED PRIORITY ACTIONS, FROM WHICH DONORS WOULD SELECT PROJECTS IN KEEPING WITH THEIR OWN MEANS. IT WAS AGREED THAT ORDERING OF NEEDS BY PRIORITY WAS INDEED ESSENTIAL.

B. ADO GAVE AMB DIALLO LATEST DELIVERY DATES PER REF A FOR 9,500 T. OUT OF 15,000 T. APPROVED. HE COMMENTED ON SLIPPAGE OF ALREADY ONE MONTH, BUT DID NOT SEEM TO FORCE ISSUE.

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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 02940 211113Z

C. ADO REFERRED TO RECENT GON 1973 HARVEST ESTIMATE OF 1,052,000 MT. AMB DIALLO SAID THAT SINCE THIS ESTIMATE WAS MADE IN AUGUST, CERTAIN REGIONS HAVE BEEN WITHOUT ADEQUATE RAIN WHICH WILL NECESSITATE A LOWER ESTIMATE. HE STATED THAT AREAS OF MARGINAL CULTIVATION ZONE STRETCHING FROM FILINGUE THROUGH TAHOUA TO DAKORO AND TANOUT WILL BE SERIOUS PRODUCTION DEFICIENT AREAS AND THAT GON ESTIMATE OF TOTAL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE NEEDED STILL STOOD AT 150,000 MT. ADO INFORMED AMB DIALLO OF THE PROPOSED ASSISTANCE TO MIN RURAL ECONOMY FOR SPEEDY ESTIMATION OF CURRENT CROP AS REQUESTED OF AID/W PER REF B.

D. AMB DIALLO STRESSED THAT THIS COMING YEAR WILL, IN FACT, BE WORSE THAN LAST BECAUSE FARMER STOCKS ARE DOWN TO NEAR ZERO DUE THIS YEAR'S DROUGHT AND WILL BE RECONSTITUTED BY FARMERS AS FIRST PRIORITY AFTER THEY MEET THEIR VERY MINIMAL MONETARY NEEDS. URBAN CENTERS WILL THEREFORE BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED RE GRAIN AVAILABILITIES. AMB DIALLO ADDED EMPHATICALLY THAT SINCE MANY FARMERS HAVE HAD LITTLE STOCKS TO RELY ON FOR THEIR CURRENT CONSUMPTION DURING PRE-HARVEST SEASON (EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCY GRAIN DISTRIBUTIONS), THEY HAVE MORTGAGED AN IMPORTANT PART OF UPCOMING HARVEST TO SPECULATORS AT LOWER PRICES THAN WILL BE OFFERED BY OPVN AT HARVEST. THIS WILL ADD TO CRUNCH ON URBAN POP AS EVEN MORE GRAIN IS WITHHELD FROM MARKET. AMB DIALLO THEREFORE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF EXTERNAL GRAIN AVAILABILITIES IN-COUNTRY NOW AND OVER NEXT YEAR TO LESSEN PROPENSITY TO WITHHOLD STOCKS FROM MARKET.

E. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO FACT THAT USG HAS APPROVED 15,000 T. OUT OF GON REQUEST OF 30,000 T. FOR FIRST QUARTER FY-74. ADO REITERATED THAT ONLY 100,000 T. HAD BEEN ALLOTTED FOR ALL AFRICA IN FIRST QUARTER, THAT GRAIN WAS, IN FACT, REACHING POPULATION IN KEEPING WITH MAXIMUM DISTRIBUTION POSSIBILITIES BOTH FROM PREVIOUS ALLOTMENTS AND NOW FROM 15,000 ALLOTMENT, THAT IN ANY CASE IF 46,000 T. OF U.S. GRAIN WAS ABLE TO SUSTAIN POPULATION DURING PRE-HARVEST PERIOD OF EIGHT MONTHS, SURELY 15,000 T. WOULD DO AT LEAST THE SAME AND PROBABLY BETTER DURING NEXT THREE MONTHS OF HARVEST PERIOD. AMB DIALLO RESPONDED THAT ALL OF POPULATION HAD NOT BEEN REACHED ADEQUATELY. HE ADMITTED THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN REALISTICALLY POSSIBLE TO DO MORE BY WAY OF DISTRIBUTION, GIVEN ARRIVAL GRAIN SHIPMENTS FY-73 DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NIAMEY 02940 211113Z

RAINY SEASON, AND HE STATED THAT COMING DRY SEASON WOULD ENABLE WIDER DISTRIBUTION TO POPULATIONS HITHERTO NOT REACHED BY EARLIER SHIPMENTS. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT CONCERN WAS ONE OF MARKETING AS PER ITEM D. ABOVE.

F. ADO RAISED A LAST POINT RE NEED FOR IMPROVED CONTROL AND REPORTING BY OPVN. AMB DIALLO REFERRED INSTEAD TO NEED FOR LARGER NUMBER OF OPVN DISTRIBUTION POINTS TO REACH FARMERS WHO

CONSTITUTE MORE THAN 90 PERCENT OF POPULATION.

2. AMB DIALLO LEAVES NIAMEY ON THURS, SEP 20, AND EXPECTS TO
ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY, SEP 21.

DECON 9/75.
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